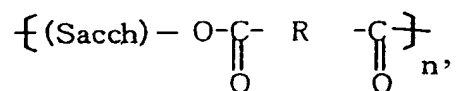


C. Remarks

The claims are 1-5 and 7-13, with claims 1-3 and 10-13 being independent. Claim 6 has been cancelled. The independent claims have been amended to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 6. Claim 7 has been amended to reflect the cancellation of claim 6. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 1-5 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,476,255 (Bailey). The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

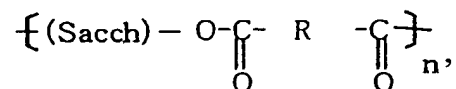
As mentioned above, the independent claims have been amended to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 6, which was not rejected over Baily. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are patentable over Bailey, because it fails to disclose or suggest a hydrolyzable and biodegradable resin that has the structure as defined by the following formula:



wherein (Sacch) denotes a saccharide structure and R denotes a group formed by removing two carboxylic groups from aliphatic or aromatic dicarboxylic acid.

Claims 1-6 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,931,488 (Chiquet). The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the merits of rejection, Applicant would like to briefly discuss some of the key features and advantages of the presently claimed invention. That invention relates to a resin composition comprising a hydrolyzable and biodegradable resin having the following formula:



wherein (Sacch) denotes a saccharide structure and R denotes a group formed by removing two carboxylic groups from aliphatic or aromatic dicarboxylic acid. Since the resin has the above structure, in addition to being decomposable, it allows a biodegradable resin to be obtained again by recovering and re-polymerizing the products resulting from its decomposition (e.g., monomers). Therefore, the presently claimed resin composition is not only biodegradable, it is also recyclable (see paragraph [0043]).

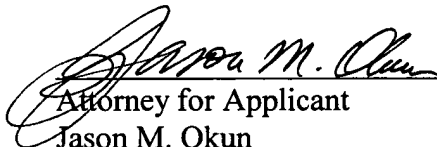
Chiquet discloses a composition in which a biodegradable decomposition promoter is added to a polymer, which does not have biodegradable and hydrolytic properties. Applicant submits, however, that when this composition is decomposed, the decomposition product cannot be re-polymerized. Therefore, the composition taught by Chiquet is not recyclable or re-usable. To the contrary, as mentioned above, since the decomposition products of the presently claimed resin can be re-polymerized to obtain a biodegradable resin, the claimed composition can be re-used and employed in a recycling system.

Accordingly, Chiquet clearly does not disclose or suggest the resin composition as presently claimed. Furthermore, there is no teaching suggestion to use the presently claimed resin in Chiquet. Thus, Chiquet cannot affect the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

Wherefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that the present case be passed to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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